

City of Gresham
Coalition of Neighborhood Associations
May 11, 2010 – Springwater Trail Room, Gresham City Hall

as approved
6/8/2010

Meeting Minutes

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
ASERT		Northeast	NOT ACTIVE
Centennial	Tom Stanley	North Gresham	NOT ACTIVE
Central City	Bob Pung Sr., Clint Holly	Northwest	Diane Wichman
Gresham Butte	Mads Ledet, Bruce Hoyt	Gresham Pleasant Valley	
Hollybrook	NOT ACTIVE	Powell Valley	Tom Griffith
Kelly Creek	Carol Rulla, Charles Teem, Julie Smith	Rockwood	John Bildsoe
Mt. Hood	Anita Daily	Southwest	Suzan Wells
North Central	Tia Hough	Wilkes-East	Marc Thornsberry, Curt Duvall
Guests:	Cathy Harrington, Lani Wild, Anndy Wiselogle, Stacy Skerjanec, David Ris		

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by Carol Rulla, Coalition President, at 7:00 pm.

Quorum: Eleven (11) neighborhood associations were represented with elected board members; constituting a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: Suzan Wells asked that her update on the Retail Design code project be added to last month's minutes. Bob Pung Sr. moved to approve the minutes of 4/10/2010, as corrected. Mads Ledet seconded. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

CITY NEWS – NEIGHBORHOOD – REPORTS

Lani Wild – Gresham Center for the Arts Plaza. Activities are planned so citizens can attend concerts during lunch through the end of August – Party on the Plaza will include Super Diamond – cover band for Neil Diamond. Other activities include the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, Car Festival, and a Wine and Art Festival in August. Most events are free; please share with your N/A's. Suzan Wells asked if they would attend the Southwest Neighborhood Community Information Fair. Contact Lani by email at lani@gcfta.org or by phone. As a 501(c)3 foundation, you can give to the Oregon Cultural Trust for the Gresham Cultural Foundation for the Arts; the grant will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

Anndy Wiselogle – East Metro Mediation. 50% of their cases are neighbor-to-neighbor situations and customer/business problems. This is a free service via the City of Gresham. The mediator will contact the neighbor or business. Anndy would be happy to speak at a neighborhood meeting.

Stacy Skerjanec - Gresham Adopt-A-Road Program. Looking for interested parties to Adopt-A-Road particularly in west Gresham. High school groups are very active. Citizens can make a call to RID (via Portland Metro) and they will come out and pick up large items that have been illegally dumped, usually within 24 hours. If items are on city right-of-way they will pick up; if on private property, will need to go through Code Enforcement. For those who adopt a road, clean-up is 3 times per year. Signs are installed at both ends of the adopted road listing the persons or group who pick litter. Litter pickers must be older than 13. The program provides gloves, bags, litter picking equipment, etc. New groups need safety training. More information is on the city's website.

David Ris – City of Gresham Attorney, Code Review. The Gresham Revised Code is reviewed every couple of years primarily instigated by city departments. This year the focus is on Enforcement Code Compliance. Article 7.50 has the tools and procedures that city staff can utilize to enforce the code. Education and informal contact is an opportunity and is usually the first step. Notice of Violation is the second step. Civil Penalty is the next step and is an administrative process similar to issuing a citation. Abatement is next followed by a Civil Action/Injunction. Administrative Enforcement fees were added to the code about 10 years ago but found they weren't very effective. There is a proposal to remove fees from the code and replace with a Civil Penalty.

A warrant must be obtained in order to abate a nuisance to preserve private property rights. John Bildsoe asked about how many warrants the city gets each month. Very few as the city usually obtains compliance. Suzan Wells asked if foreclosures and bank owned properties have been an issue. He wasn't aware of any. Bob Pung Sr. asked if once Gresham has a Municipal Court, would the problem be easier to deal with? Unclear whether there would be any advantage. Clint Holly asked if there would be a database listing notices of violation? Unknown. Tom Stanley asked if authorization to inspect would include the inside. Only if there is some justification. City must comply with constitutional protections and get a warrant or permission. Diane Wichman asked if there is a process after abatement and garbage piles up again. This would be another violation and the process restarts. Mads Ledet asked if there was still a chance to go in and talk to a suspected violator? The revised code will address this opportunity. The goal is to gain compliance. Marc Thornsby asked about repeat or habitual offenders and how they might be dealt with. Looking at the appropriate level of penalty. Civil Action is in Article 7.50.400 (Pg. 16).

Bob Pung Sr. asked if a fine is paid before the collection process might it be less than if it goes to collection. The city is looking into this. Marc Thornsby asked if the class of violation will be noted in the code. It is more likely it will be associated with a specific chapter for repeat violations. John Bildsoe asked if there would be a section addressing refusal to comply with the class of violation. Article 7.50 changes will go before the City Council on June 1, 2010. The Code Review process will continue throughout the year. Email David at david.ris@greshamoregon.gov. The entire Gresham Revised Code is available on the city webpage.

Diane Wichman said that Rita Humphrey attended their NA meeting and did a good job of talking about code compliance issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ There is an opening on the Transportation Committee open to anyone who is interested in participating. They meet the first Thursday of the month. The Citizen Involvement Committee is also looking for members. Nearly every committee has vacancies.
- ◆ The Urban Forestry Survey will be online until May 23rd.
- ◆ Bob Pung Sr. attended the Budget Committee meeting and read a letter from the Coalition expressing thanks for the support we receive, per last month's decision.
- ◆ Carol Rulla reported that Multnomah Chair Cogen and Commissioner Kafoury each wrote a letter in response to the Coalition letter in support of the East County Court, which the Commission voted to fund.
- ◆ Cathy Harrington discussed the following:
 - "Get to Know Your Neighbor" was featured in a recent Parade Magazine article. Consider how you might do this in your neighborhood.
 - August 3rd is National Night Out. Please encourage your neighborhood to host some sort of activity. Will likely have a place to register your event on the city website.
 - Several NA's still haven't provided website landing page information. What is your neighborhood about? Write a paragraph, include a picture, meeting dates, events, etc. Send to Lina Sizman.
- ◆ Suzan Wells, Southwest NA. Attended the stakeholders meeting for Retail Design and Development Standards today. More Community Forums will occur before the end of the year. The next forum will be August 4th, 6:30pm at City Hall. Suzan will attend a meeting at the City of Damascus to discuss neighborhood association development on May 18th at 7:00pm. Carol Rulla will attend July 20th meeting.
- ◆ Mads Ledet, Gresham Butte NA. Their neighborhood met last night concerning solar power.
- ◆ Anita Daily, Mt. Hood NA. Attended a meeting concerning the Springwater Industrial site development near Hwy 26 and 267th. A preliminary plan is being developed on future access options.
- ◆ Mads Ledet and Carol Rulla have been working on a draft letter to the Attorney General concerning public meetings law. Marc Thornsby volunteered to help.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Anita Daily, GCNA Secretary-Treasurer.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 8, 2010 – Springwater Trail Room

NOTE: The Gresham Coalition of Neighborhood Associations is referred to in the minutes as either "Coalition" or "GCNA". Neighborhood Associations are referred to in the minutes as either "NA or NA's".